

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, BBAK, MX
SUBJ: MONTERREY LABOR DISPUTE EXPANDS, SETTLEMENT INSIGHT

REF: MONTERREY 0678

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATION DISPUTE BETWEEN CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE MEXICO (CTM) AND CONFEDERACION REVOLUCIONARIA DE OBREROS Y CAMPESINOS (CROC) FOR CONTROL OF WORKERS AT PRODUCTOS CORNING DE MEXICO, S.A., HAS EXPANDED. DURING LAST WEEK, CTM MEMBERS BLOCKADED PHILLIPS MEXICANA, S.A., (PARTIALLY DUTCH OWNED), AND RECIMEX, S.A. DE C.V., A FIRM RECENTLY SOLD BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO FUNDIDORA MONTERREY, S.A. (OFFICIALLY 33 PERCENT OWNED BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT). ALL DISPUTES INVOLVED CTM CLAIM OF RIGHT TO REPRESENT WORKERS AT SUBJECT FIRMS, DESPITE FACT CTM HAS NOT RPT NOT WON REPRESENTATION RIGHT IN SANTIONED UNION ELECTION. DISPUTE AT PHILLIPS AND RECIMEX IS BETWEEN CTM AND FEDERACION NACIONAL DE SINDICATOS INDEPENDIENTES (FNSI). END SUMMARY.

2. UNION DISPUTE AT PRODUCTOS CORNING DE MEXICO REMAINS UNRESOLVED. CORNING PAID WORKERS SALARIES FOR WEEK AUGUST 21 TO SHOW WORKERS FIRM AWARE OF THEIR PROBLEMS, AND ILLUSTRATE FIRM'S SATISFACTION WITH PRESENT UNION REPRESENTATION (CROC). CTM AND CROC HAVE AGREED TO NEW UNION ELECTION IN NEXT 14 DAYS. THIS AGREEMENT ALLOWED CORNING WORKERS TO RESUME LABORS FRIDAY,
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AUGUST 25. COMPANY MANAGEMENT EXPECTS CROC WILL WIN NEW ELECTION, BUT FEARS NEW PROBLEMS IF RESULTS NOT AT LEAST 90 PERCENT FOR CROC.

3. BLOCKADE OF PHILLIPS WAS INSTITUTED AUGUST 20, LIFTED NEXT AFTERNOON, AND PUT BACK IN PLACE ON EVENING OF 22ND. NEW ELECTION WILL BE HELD TO DECIDE REPRESENTATION PROBABLY NEXT WEEK.

"BLOCKADE" WILL BE LIFTED MONDAY MORNING, BUT WORKERS ARE EXHORTED TO "KEEP FOREIGN ELEMENTS OUT OF PLANT". IT IS EXPECTED THAT CTM WILL WIN NEW ELECTIONS.

4. RECIMEX'S PROBLEMS WERE RESOLVED AUGUST 24 WITH REINSTATEMENT OF FOUR DISCHARGED WORKERS AND CTM BOWING TO FNSI RIGHT TO REPRESENT RECIMEX WORKERS.

5. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS DISPUTES SETTLED BECAUSE OF "ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION AND PRESSURE FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT". WELL KNOWN SUPPORT OF CTM POSITION BY GOVERNOR ZORRILLA HAS DRAWN SHARP CRITICISM FROM SOME OF PRESS. MEXICO SECRETARY OF LABOR OJEDA PAULLADA'S STATEMENT THAT PROBLEM WAS "INTERNAL SOCIAL PROBLEM, WHICH CAN BE RESOLVED BY NUEVO LEON WITHOUT MY HELP", ELICITED COMMENTS RANGING FROM INCREDULOUS TO PRACTICALLY UNPRINTABLE. OJEDA PAULLADA LATER MET WITH BOTH CROC AND CTM LEADERS, AND MAY HAVE HAD SOME MODERATING INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, HE HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED GOVERNOR ZORRILLA IN LABOR AFFAIRS AND COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO ENCOURAGE HIS CRITICS IN THEIR ATTACKS.

6. PRESSURE FROM MEXICO CITY IS EXPECTED TO BRING CALM TO PRIVATE SECTOR LABOR RELATIONS FOR TIME BEING. ALL THREE UNIONS ARE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT RESULTS OF NEW ELECTIONS WITH NO FURTHER OUT-BREAKS OF DISORDER. BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT HAVE EXPRESSED MILD SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF FRIDAY'S CONCILIATION EFFORTS.
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